

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 12-22 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 23 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-9 and 12-22 are allowed. Claims 1-9 and 12-22 have not been amended herein, thus remaining in condition for allowance.

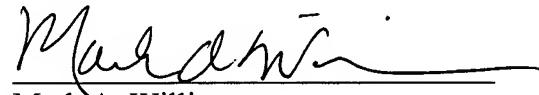
Applicant notes the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance at page 7 of the Office Action. However, the reasons for allowance of Claim 1 are not explicitly recited in Claim 1. For example, Claim 1 does not recite or necessarily require that "stored audio data from more than one speaker must be identified by the user" or that "a user makes a second selection in the testing stage to select speaker and word data that was previously collected by the data collection unit to test the generated speaker models". Nevertheless, the pending claims are believed to be patentable for the combination of claimed features.

Claims 23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 23 and 26 have been cancelled herein, thus rendering this rejection moot. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In addition, since this amendment merely cancels rejected claims, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection is believed to be warranted.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW\agm